

because of an understanding that the language within Title I of this bill grants the Secretary of Agriculture the discretion to provide assistance to producers who suffered timber loss due to Hurricanes Michael and Florence.

Even after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, there have been over 80 major disaster declarations. This much-needed disaster relief will support our Florida Panhandle communities, help rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base, assist farmers and ranchers, restore coastal infrastructure, and fund the Nutrition Assistance Program and infrastructure repairs for Puerto Rico.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in both chambers of Congress to bring relief to millions of families.

COMMENDING KIM KOWALEWSKI

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and honor the outstanding service of Kim Kowalewski, who retires this week after nearly 40 years as a public servant, the past 30 of them at the Congressional Budget Office.

Kim Kowalewski joined CBO in 1989. After serving briefly as a principal analyst in what was then known as the Fiscal Analysis Division, he was promoted to be the Chief of the Financial and General Macroeconomics Modeling Unit, which analyzed developments in financial markets and contributed to the forecast of consumer spending. He next headed the Financial Markets Unit, which, in addition to analyzing and forecasting financial market indicators, prepared cost estimates for various federal financial programs and developed policy options for the housing and financial markets.

In 2008, he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Director of the Macroeconomic Analysis Division. In that capacity, he played an essential role in developing CBO's economic projections, which underlie the agency's budget projections, and he directed numerous studies on developments in the economy, including the operation of automatic stabilizers, changes in trade policy, and the effects of federal tax and spending policies. In 2016, he became a senior adviser at CBO. In that role, he led cross-divisional efforts to improve CBO's graphics and written presentations and mentored and trained colleagues. Throughout, he has been a leader in making CBO's analysis accessible.

Kim Kowalewski's public service did not begin with his work at CBO. He came to the agency after eight years at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, where he led the preparation of the bank's forecast of the U.S. economy and provided analysis related to monetary policy, financial markets, personal bankruptcy, and consumer spending.

By all accounts, Kim's colleagues at CBO and on the Hill appreciate his dedication, ability, skillful work, and breadth of experience. They will miss his generosity with his time and knowledge and, especially, his kindness.

I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Kim for his service to our country. We wish him well in his future undertakings and hope that the nation

will continue to benefit from his expertise and commitment.

RECOGNIZING ST. PAUL BLUE POINT LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR ITS 150TH YEAR AS A CONGREGATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge St. Paul Blue Point Lutheran Church for its 150th year as a congregation. Built on October 31, 1869 in Altamont, IL, the church became a place of peace and fellowship for all attendees.

To celebrate this historic occasion, the church held honorary services dedicated to the anniversary on Sunday, June 2. Keynote speakers of the event included Rev. Mark Witte and Rev. David Witte, both of whom are direct descendants from the church's founders. At present, eleven families are of direct descent of the original 31 founders and are still active amongst the congregation.

I extend my well wishes to the current officers—Rev. David Speers, Todd Wachtel, Corey Guy, Alex Wendling, Doug Kopplin, Doug Hammer and many others who have played a major role in spearheading this event.

Madam Speaker, the St. Paul Blue Point Lutheran Church and the entire congregation should be very proud of their continuing commitment and service over the past 150 years. I am excited to see how the church will continue to grow and make an impact in the years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGING 40 YEARS OF THE BUFFALO VET CENTER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Buffalo Vet Center, which, for the last forty years, has helped the veterans of Western New York readjust to life as civilians after returning home from a combat zone. The Vet Center provides our brave servicemen and women with much needed services outside of the traditional VA network.

Established by Congress in 1979, Vet Centers aimed to provide counseling and other health services to military veterans who returned home from Vietnam who were reluctant to access VA services. Readjustment counseling, a non-medical, community-based approach, was included in the official services offered to combat veterans. The centers immediately broke down barriers that exist in traditional healthcare by hiring other veterans as counselors to build a bond over shared experiences.

Following the high utilization of Vet Centers around the country, Congress acted to establish permanent centers in 1983 and made readjustment counseling a lifetime entitlement for combat veterans who qualify. Eligibility and

services provided have continually expanded since the 1990s and the constant military involvement in the Middle East created a new generation of veterans who needed and continue to depend on the services provided by the Vet Center.

In 2003, Vet Centers were authorized to provide bereavement counseling services to spouses, children, parents, and siblings of service members who died while on active duty. Today, there are over 300 permanent Vet Centers, 80 mobile Vet Centers, a 24/7 Vet Center call line, and more than 2,000 on staff who help veterans, active duty, and family members of those in the armed forces.

I thank the Buffalo Vet Center for its 40 years of serving the veterans of WNY and I hope they continue to provide exceptional service to the Veterans in WNY far into the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2019 WYOMING GIRLS STATE

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the gathering of Wyoming Girls State being held in Cheyenne, WY.

First, let me thank these young women for their interest in the workings of government and understanding our collective civic duty. The success of our constitutional republic depends on informed and engaged citizens, especially young people, who actively participate in it. As young women from across Wyoming gather to learn and discuss the basic fabric of our government, I hope you will take the lessons learned to heart as you continue with your future endeavors. I know you will go on to do big and important things for our state of Wyoming, and our country.

Again, Madam Speaker, I want to recognize and thank the participants of Wyoming Girls State 2019 for their participation in the program and enthusiasm for our democratic process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 10, 2019 because I had the privilege of attending a tour of the Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy (SIRE) in my Congressional District with the President of United States. This tour and visit prevented me from traveling to Washington, DC in order to vote Monday the 10th. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted yea on H.R. 542—Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act; yea on H.R. 2539—Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2019; and yea on H.R. 2590—DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2019.